

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Cancel claims 1 - 3, 5 - 8, 10 - 11 and 15 - 25, and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Rewrite objected-to claims 12 and 14 as independent claims, thereby rendering claims 12 - 14 allowable¹.
3. Amend claims 4, 9, and 26 to depend from allowed dependent claim 29.
4. Thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 28 - 36. .

B. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

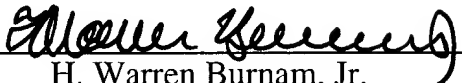
Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

¹ Note that new independent claims 12 and 14 have been rewritten much in the manner of allowed independent claim 28, which should overcome the concerns under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

KASAHARA et al
Appl. No. 09/388,605
October 6, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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